

II. AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-3. (canceled)

Claim 4. (New) A molded composite roofing tile with a front and a back, a top and bottom, and opposite outer sides; the tile comprising:

a) an image section with a plurality of tile or shingle images having (1) backsides raised from a datum plane, (2) a substantially constant front-to-back thickness, (3) bottom edges that establish the bottom of the image section, and (4) outer sides that establish opposite outer sides of the image section;

b) the back of said image section having (1) support surfaces at said datum plane, and (2) non-uniform reinforcing ribs extending rearwardly to no further than said datum plane;

d) a head lap with (1) an upper waterlock along the top of the image section, the upper waterlock being configured to resist flow of water over the top thereof and for controlled water flow therefrom, (2) laterally spaced fastener-receiving formations, and (3) fastener-supports extending rearwardly to said datum;

e) a side water lock along one of said outer sides of the image section; and

f) a side overlap facing rearwardly along the other of said outer sides of the image section, the side overlap being configured for positioning into the side waterlock of an adjacent tile when installed onto a roof.

Claim 5. (New) The roofing tile as defined in claim 4 in which (a) the side waterlock terminates at a closed upper end proximate the top of the head lap and an open lower end proximate but above the bottom of the image section, and (b) the side overlap terminates at a closed lower end that overlaps the lower open end of the side waterlock and an open upper end below the upper closed end of the side waterlock for adjustable top-to-bottom positioning of the side waterlock and side overlap of adjacent installed tiles, and thus for adjustable exposure of the images of said tiles when installed onto a roof.

Claim 6. (New) The roofing tile as defined in claim 4 further comprising laterally aligned tile-positioning lugs extending rearwardly from the back of the head lap to beyond said datum plane for guided positioning of the roofing tiles onto laterally extending battens on a roof.

Claim 7. (New) The roofing tile as defined in claim 4 in which the side waterlock and side overlap are configured to establish side-to-side self-centering adjustment between adjacent tiles when installed onto a roof.

Claim 8. (New) The roofing tile as defined in claim 4 in which the upper water lock includes an upper dam and a side dam on the side of the overlap, a lower water-guide for draining onto the image section, and an open side opposite the side dam for draining into the side waterlock.

Claim 9. (New) The roofing tile as defined in claim 4 in which (a) the head lap includes a shelf along the length thereof, and (b) the fastener-receiving formations are raised from said shelf to separate fastener therein from water that may be on the shelf.

Claim 10. (New) The roofing tile as defined in claim 4 in which the fastener-receiving formations are provided with tapered counter-sunk holes to establish a snug fit with correspondingly sized tapered heads of fasteners used to secure the tile to a roof.

Claim 11. (New) A molded composite roofing tile with a front and a back, a top and bottom, and opposite outer sides; the tile comprising:

a) an image section with (1) a plurality of tile or shingle images having (i) bottom edges that establish the bottom of the image section, and (ii) outer sides that establish opposite outer sides of the image section, and (2) a visually distinct divider extending adjacent each of the images;

b) the back of said image section having support surfaces at said datum plane;

c) a head lap with (1) an upper waterlock along the top of the image section, the upper waterlock being configured to resist flow of water over the top thereof and for controlled water flow therefrom, (2) laterally spaced fastener-receiving formations, and (3) fastener supports extending rearwardly to said datum plane;

d) a side water lock along one of said outer sides of the image section; and

e) a side overlap facing rearwardly along the other of said outer sides of the image section, the side overlap being configured for positioning into the side waterlock of an adjacent tile when installed onto a roof.

Claim 12. (New) The roofing tile as defined in claim 11 in which (a) the side waterlock terminates at a closed upper end proximate the top of the head lap and an open lower end proximate but above the bottom of the image section, and (b) the side overlap terminates at a closed lower end that overlaps the lower open end of the side waterlock and an open upper end below the upper closed end of the side waterlock for adjustable top-to-bottom positioning of the side waterlock and side overlap of adjacent installed tiles, and thus for adjustable exposure of the images of said tiles when installed onto a roof.

Claim 13. (New) The roofing tile as defined in claim 11 further comprising laterally aligned tile-positioning lugs extending rearwardly from the back of the had lap to beyond said datum plane for guided positioning of the roofing tiles onto laterally extending battens on a roof.

Claim 14. (New) The roofing tile as defined in claim 11 in which the side waterlock and side overlap are configured to establish side-to-side self-centering adjustment between adjacent tiles when installed onto a roof.

Claim 15. (New) The roofing tile as defined in claim 11 in which the upper water lock includes an upper dam and a side dam on the side of the overlap, a lower water-guide for draining onto the image section, and an open side opposite the side dam for draining into the side waterlock.

Claim 16. (New) The roofing tile as defined in claim 11 in which (a) the head lap includes a shelf along the length thereof, and (b) the fastener-receiving formations are raised from said shelf to separate fasteners therein from water that may be on the shelf.

Claim 17. (New) The roofing tile as defined in claim 11 in which the fastener-receiving formations are provided with tapered counter-sunk holes to establish a snug fit with correspondingly sized tapered heads of fasteners used to secure the tile to a roof.

Claim 18. (New) A molded composite roofing tile with a front and a back, a top and bottom, and opposite outer sides; the tile comprising:

a) an image section with (1) a plurality of tile or shingle images having (a) backsides raised from a datum plane, (b) a substantially constant front-to-back thickness, (c) bottom edges that establish the bottom of the image section, and (d) outer sides that establish opposite outer sides of the image section, and (2) a visually distinct divider extending adjacent each of the images from proximate the top of the images to proximate but above the bottom edges;

b) the back of said image section having (1) support surfaces at said datum plane, and (2) non-uniform reinforcing ribs extending rearwardly to no further than said datum plane;

c) a head lap with (1) an upper waterlock along the top of the image section, the upper waterlock having (a) a shelf extending along the length thereof, (b) an uninterrupted upper dam to resist flow of water over the top of the shelf, (c) an uninterrupted side dam to resist flow of water out one side of the shelf, the opposite side of the shelf being open for outflow of water from the shelf, and (d) an interrupted lower dam for controlled flow of water out the bottom of the shelf toward the image section therebelow, (2) laterally spaced fastener-receiving formations proximate the lower dam, the fastener-receiving formations having pre-formed tapered fastener openings and being raised from the shelf to resist water flow into said openings, and (3) fastener supports extending from the back of the shelf to said datum plane;

d) a side water lock along one of said outer sides of the image section, the side waterlock having a forwardly facing channel substantially along the length thereof from the open side of the shelf to proximate but above the bottom of the image section; and

e) a side overlap facing rearwardly along the other of said outer sides of the image section, the side overlap being configured for side-to-side adjustable positioning into the side waterlock channel of an adjacent tile when installed onto a roof, the channel and side overlap further having complimentary profiles to establish side-to-side self-centering between adjacent installed tiles.

Claim 19. (New) The roofing tile as defined in claim 18 in which (a) the side waterlock terminates at a closed upper end proximate the top of the head lap and an open lower end proximate but above the bottom edge formations of the image section, and (b) the side overlap terminates at a closed lower end that overlaps the lower open end of the side waterlock and an open upper end below the upper closed end of the side waterlock for adjustable top-to-bottom positioning of the side waterlock and side overlap of adjacent installed tiles, and thus for adjustable exposure of the images of said tiles when installed onto a roof.

Claim 20. (New) The roofing tile as defined in claim 18 further comprising laterally aligned tile-positioning lugs extending rearwardly from the back of the head lap to beyond said datum plane for guided positioning of the roofing tiles onto laterally extending battens on a roof.

Claim 21. (New) The roofing tile as defined in claim 20 further comprising tile stacking guides formed in the head lap to receive the tile-positioning lugs of a second roofing tile stacked thereon.

Claim 22. (New) The roofing tile as defined in claim 18 in which the side waterlock channel is formed with outwardly sloping sides to establish said side-to-side self-centering between adjacent installed tiles.

Claim 23. (New) The roofing tile as defined in claim 18 in which the front and back of the image section are provided with aligned stacking regions that are spaced at an equal front-to-back distance from one another and separated top-to-bottom and side-to-side from one another for positioning back stacking regions of a first tile onto front stacking surfaces of a second tile stacked thereon.